## QUINTET OF AGED BRITISH PEERS, THOUGH LONG SINCE PAST OSLER'S LIMIT, ARE STILL ROBUST AND ACTIVE AND REFUSE TO BE PUT ON THE SHELF

LL Have Passed the Three - Score - and-Ten Mark, While Two Are Octogenarians-The Commanderin-Chief of the Army, a Member of the Cabinet, One of the Richest of London's Ground Landlords, the Most Hated of Irish Landowners and the "Father" of the House of Lords Make Up the Lot-The Marquis of Ripon, Lord Privy Seal, Has Been a Member of Every Liberal Cabinet, With a Single Exception, for the Past Fifty Years-Viscount Portman, Who Derives an Income of More Than \$1.ooo,ooc From His London Estates, Owes His Immense Wealth to His Great Grandmother's Desire for Asses' Milk

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**\*\*\*\*\*\***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Special Correspondence of The Star.

LONDON, July 25, 1908. NGLAND boasts a quintet of aged peers who, although they years ago passed the Osler limit, are still hale, robust and active, both in body and mind. Two of them are octogenarians and the others Lord Ripon is eminently fitted, so far as hind. They are the lord privy seal, one Whole, British empire all by himself.

will shortly celebrate his eighty-second tive to do anything like that. ception is the very good one that during the United States, and he earned the Gladstone's second administration Lord execration of many Englishmen by the Ripon was in India governing the natives. manner in which he ruled India during tracted the office habit. He has become Queen Victoria; for his latter conduct a fixture, and nobody has the heart to he will always be known, in the words turn him out. He is a brilliant ornament of Kipling, as "the weakest of all the to his party, but nobody ever accused viceroys." The objections against his him of being much more. His present manner of running the British depenpost is an unpaid one—the only one in all dency seem to be that he preferred the the cabinet which does not command a olive branch to the iron hand. He treated generous salary. But there is a fitness in the case of Lord Ripon, for his emolument is in proportion to his labors. The duties of the lord privy seal keep him Indians, but terribly unpopular among about as busy as an iceman in Green-land. Theoretically he is the custodian of the privy seal, and there was a time in the dim, distant past when the seal had to be attached to all royal grants or patents before such documents could receive the final authority of the great receive the final authority of the great a sensation in Church of England circles. seal. But in the hurry and bustle of twentieth century strenuousness the mid-dle step has been abandoned and docu-bearing the sign, "The Most Noble the ments go direct from sovereign to the Marquess of Ripon," carry his produce great chamberlain, keeper of the great all over the neighboring country. His

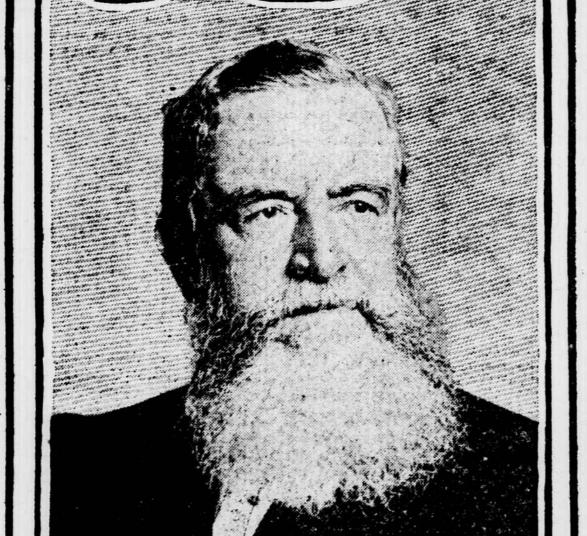
some time in his career. He has been secretary of state for war on two occasions, secretary of state for the colhas been president of the council. In ad-



India and first lord of the admiralty once. have left the three-score-and-ten post be- the experience of office goes, to run the of the richest of London's ground land- Just why this peer should have been lords, the "father" of the house of lords. Palmerston nobody seems to know. He retained in all the liberal cabinets since the best hated of Irish landowners, and is hardly what one would call a brilliant the commander-in-chief of the British man. One politician said that the only reason he could think of was that Lord The Marquis of Ripon, lord privy seal, found it impossible to quarrel with him by his retention in the Asquith cabinet or offered him." Another said that "breakadds still further to a remarkable record ing with the old marquis would be like which he holds. The venerable lord, who breaking with the venerable past," and British politicians are much too conservabirthday, has been a member of every Lord Ripon has done two things for liberal cabinet, with a single exception, which he will be remembered. He preof the last fifty years. The only reason sided over the joint committee which that can be assigned for the single ex-

This peer might be said to have con- his term as viceroy. For the former

At his country seat, Studley Royal, he The office of lord privy seal sur- butter has become famous for its purity, vives, however, like the appendix in the and fancy prices are obtained for it. human body, with no known need for its Among his other products is Earl de Gray, his only son, and the finest game shot in the country, if not in the whole BUT there are few cabinet positions and is supposed to be possessed of con-which Lord Ripon has not filled at siderable wealth.



MARQUIS OF RIPON

onies twice, and in the desired a diet of asses' ty-ninth year, owes his income of more mended the milk for her, whereupon her milk the present Viscount Portman milk the present Viscount Portman, than \$1,000,000 a year. The old lady was husband bought a farm covering the dition he has been secretary of state for who has just been married in his seven- in bad health, and the doctors recom- ground around what is now known as ber. He is the "father" of the house ing white hair he is one of the most in-

Bryanston Square for about \$10,000, and and by many years holds the record for stocked it with a drove of donkeys. To- length of parliamentary service. Sixtyday, although it is not for sale at any four years ago he entered the house of into the discussion of military matters, price, a conservative estimate of its value commons as Lord Elcho. Lord Rosebery, would be not under \$50,000,000, and its Arthur Balfour and most of the men who of England the importance of rifle pracaged owner disputes the title of richest now lead the political parties in England London landowners with the Duke of were then unborn and the rest were in Westminster and Lord Howard of Wal- the nursery.

Besides Lord Portman's many other titles, he holds the unofficial one of "Lord 270 acres in the west end of London, abutting on Baker street Portran abutting on Baker street, Portman, Bryanston and Montague squares. He the advanced age of eighty-two. But al- ent occasions and of the houses of paris also frequently referred to as the though his second wife is a comparative- liament twice. In addition to being an "Titan of the hunting fields," because of the fact that for more than fifty by young woman she finds it hard work earl, he is a Knight of the Garter, a years he has been master of the Portman to follow the pace her octogenarian hus- Knight of St. Patrick, Knight Grand Cross hunt, and today, despite his advanced band sets. He shoots, golfs, drives his of the Bath, Knight Grand Commander of

The present viscount is the second to hold the title. His father won it by his financial talents, for he gave the late time of youth. Furthermore, he is a toria Cross, is a privy councilor, an LL.D. prince consort valuable assistance in restoring and placing on a sound financial basis the properties of the duchy of Cornwall. Incidentally, if the inside facts were known, it would undoubtedly be found that he put his hand into his own pocket more than once. However that may be, for distinguished services he

was raised from baron to viscount in 1873. Lord Portman succeeded his father in 1888. He sat in the house of commons ed his father in 1888. He has a large family by his first wife, who was the Hon. Mary Selina Charlotte Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, a daughter of the late Viscount Milton, and who died nine years ago. His second and present wife was before her recent marriage to the aged peer Mrs. Livingstone-Learmonth, a widow of sev-

HE third grand old English peer is the oldest of the lot-the Earl of Wemyss and March. He is in his ninetieth year and still an active member discomfiture of his assailant. of the house of lords. He frequently. The veteran peer believes that the speaks, especially when the subject of the fate of Greater Rome. But as he has bevolunteers, of which he is one of the pioneers, is under discussion. And what is more, he is always sure of full benches when his name appears on the lists as a dandy. No one wears his high hat at a 80; Crawshaw, 83; Field, 95; Gwydyr, 98; when his name appears on the lists as a more rakish angle than Lord Wemyss; Hemphill, 81; James of Hereford, 80; possible speaker, a compliment paid to but his clothes are always of the latest mode, Ormathwaite, 81; Sackville, 81; Thring, a few member of the British upper cham-, and with his clean-cut features and flow- 90; Ventry, 80, and Wrottesley, 84.

teresting figures in the British hereditary

THE Marquis of Clanricarde cannot boast of being an ectogenarian, but it was more than seventy-five years ago when he was born to a title. During those years he has earned for himself an unenviable record. Today, although he is a descendant of the Irish kings, and the head of the greatest of all Irish families, the Burkes, yet he is the best-hated man in the Emerald Isle. In forty years he has only once visited his enormous estates of 57,000 acres, and that was to attend the funeral of his father. It is no exaggeration to say that his life would not be worth two pins should he 'again venture among his tenantry. He has evicted almost 400 families for nonpayment of rent, and some time ago an Irish member of parliament brought in a bill providing for the expropriation of the estates of the unpopular peer.

The marquis is a confirmed bachelor. He lives in the famous Albany, just off Piccadilly, where Byron, Thackeray and dozens of other great Englishmen have had rooms. He has for many years been a stranger to the house of lords, and few of its members know him by sight. He has two hobbies-skating and art. He is frequently to be seen in Prince's rink, where he makes it a rule never to speak to any one, and he is a recognized connoisseur, especially on the subject of French painting.

THE fifth member of this interesting quintet is Earl Roberts, commander-in-chief of the British army. Although "Bobs," as he is affectionately called by the rank and file of the army, will soon celebrate his seventy-sixth birthday, he is still an energetic, bustling little man, who enters enthusiastically is constantly impressing upon the youth tice and who frequently appears in the guise of a lecturer to the country at large on the subject of unpreparedness for war.

Lord Roberts is one of the most deco-T ORD WEMYSS betters the perform- rated men in the country. He has rewas married for the second time at the government of India on three differsculptor of ability and does them all with mander of the Indian Empire, a holder the enthusiasm of a man in the spring- of the order of the Black Eagle, the Vicwriter and the author of a book on the of several universities and the holder of the freedom of more cittes than any The aged peer is known as the great other individual in England, not even exapostle of the liberty of the individual. cepting the king or the Prince of Wales. Upon his return from the South Africanby his opposition to the habitual inebri- war he was given an earldom, made ates bill, but justified himself-to himself, commander-in-chief, and granted a presat least-by declaring that every English- ent of \$500,000, all in a lump.

It is now fifty-six years since Lord man should have the right to get drunk Roberts was gazetted a second lieutenas a whig from 1852 to 1885 and succeed- if he chose. He also holds the distinc- ant in the British army. He has taken tion of being the only man who ever part in almost sixty engagements spread struck King Edward in public. The blow lief of Lucknow he won the Victoria Cross was entirely unintentional and occurred in -the most coveted decoration in the Britthe house of lords while the latter was ish army. Prince of Wales. He was sitting on the

Besides the two who are mentioned above, England makes a brave array of peers who have passed the four-score post. Thirty-two, to be exact, are on the wintry side of eighty, while four of this heat of his ardor Lord Wemyss brought number are in their nineties. The thirhis fist down with crushing force on the ty-two are made up of the following, shining high hat of his future king. some of whom are well known, but the when the latter recovered from his as-tonishment he moved to a safer seat and of: The Archbishop of York, who is joined in the laughter of the house at the 82; the Duke of Grafton, 87; the Mar-discomfiture of his assailant quis of Abergavenny, 82; the earls of Haddington, 81; Courtown, 85; Ducie, 81; Halsbury, 83; Howth, 81; Leicester, 86; Newburgh, 90, and Earl Nelson, 85; Vislieved this pretty much all his life his counts Bangor, 80; Chetwynd, 85; Cross, pessimism does not impress anybody very 85; Llandaff, 82; Sidmouth, 84; Barons strongly. In personal appearance he is a Aldenham, 89; Armitstead, 84; Ashcombe

## AMERICAN WOMEN RECENTLY DECORATED BY ROYALTY

MRS. ROOSEVELT and Mrs. Longworth Receive Beautiful Jeweled Order From the Sultan-A Diamond-Studded Star Worn on a Sash Which Goes Over Right Shoulder-Mrs. Griscom Also Given the Grand Cordon of "Shefakat"-Mrs. McGee Is a Veritable "Lady of the Decorations" in Japan -Dr. Anna Smith Lately Decorated by France, But Uncle Sam Hasn't Let Her Accept the Honor Because She Is a Government Official -Clara Barton's Many Decorations-"Mrs. Sunset Cox" and Some Others-Imperial Orders for Women Exclusively-Some of Them Are Oddities.

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be worn over the right shoulder.

The star, of red enamel, has five points contains the sultan's cipher, which we fre- should they decline it. quently see upon Turkish embroideries. From the angles of the points issue five clusters of rays, each set with seven diamonds, the whole hanging from a goldedged red enamel crescent.

This decoration, whose name in English would be the "Order of Benevolence," was founded in 1878, for women exclusively, by the Sultan Abdul Hamid II, to commemorate the noble work of the foreign women, notably the late Baroness Bur- Griscom, who has been the youthful prod- of the army's corps of 2,000 woman dett-Coutts, who during the Russo-Turk- igy of our latter-day diplomacy, owes a nurses. In the Russo-Japanese struggle ish war amassed the "compassionate great share of his success in Persia, the mikado's minister of war appointed fund" for the relief of fugitive non-com- Japan, Brazil and Italy, where he has her supervisor of nurses of the Red batants in Constantinople and the surrounding territory.

The "grand cordon," which is the highest of the three degrees of this order, Mrs. sia. The sultan's decoration came almost ferred upon her. She is a member of Turkey, Armenia, Switzerland, Spain and the title of lady to become plain "Mrs." Roosevelt and her daughter will share as a wedding present to the young bride, the United Spanish War Veterans, being of France; Queen Alexandra of Great journey of a thousand miles from Bagdad ter of receiving honors from abroad is Britain, the Empress of Russia and the to Teheran. Queen of Roumania. While our Constitu- The sultan also decorated Mrs. Samuel the noted astronomer, Prof. Simon Newtion forbids the Presidents or any other Sullivan ("Sunset") Cox with this order comb, who has received more foreign government officials receiving such a dec- when her husband was minister to Tur- honors than any other American citizen, Tolman Smith, a specialist of the United salem, instituted in the eleven hundreds, oration from a foreign government, and key, and if I remember aright it has been and whom the kaiser recently made a while a special act of Congress would be conferred by the sultan also upon Mrs. knight of the Order of Merit. necessary for its acceptance in such cases. Oscar Straus when her husband, now in



Dr. Anita N. McGee. Decorated by the Mikado.

them unsolicited, and, in fact, as a great as upon the wife of one of the Goelets. surprise, it would be a serious diplomatic An American woman who, in Japan, edged with gold, and its golden center blunder, as well as an insult to the sultan, might properly be called "the Lady of

Sultan Decorates Mrs. Griscom.

The sultan lately conferred the grand Sacred Crown," a very rare distinction, cordon of the same order upon Mrs. and also the special decorations of the Lloyd Griscom, wife of our ambassador Red Cross of Japan and the war medal to Rome, formerly Miss Elizabeth Duer of that country. It may be remembered that this plucky woman, who is the wife Bronson, daughter of Frederick Bronson of the well known Washington anthro- Geneva, she was given the Geneva medal Katherine Duer, the author, who married received the rank of acting assistant sur-Clarence H. Mackay, the capitalist. To geon, U.S.A., during the war with Spain, his wife's graces and tact Ambassador throughout which she was in command been stationed since their marriage in Cross Society of Japan, and it was in re-1901, about the time of his departure from ward for her services with the Japanese has received decorations or testimonials Constantinople to become minister to Per- army that these honors have been con- also from the rulers of Austria, Servia, the Scots guardsman and threw away with Mme. Fallieres, wife of the President whose wedding tour included a triumphal the only woman eligible, and in the mat-

the Decorations" is Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, upon whom the mikado lately conferred the imperial "Order of the

her services with his army throughout the entire Franco-Prussian war, during which she was called to the court of the Grand Duchess of Baden to suggest relief duke with the "Gold Cross of Remembrance." while the grand duchess presented her with the Red Cross brooch. Having done further valuable work in take the necessary preliminary steps. Early in the '80s, after having aided in securing the adoption of the treaty of thropist, who also represented our country at the Red Cross conferences at Carlesruhe, Rome, Vienna and St. Pebles of 1898 and of the Galveston flood. Echo, a suburb of Washington.

struction publique." She is the only Red Cross, founded in 1883 to reward mrs. Roosevelt and Mrs. Longworth are the cabinet. was minister to Turkey, and free to accept it without permission from any one, and although the honor comes to



measures and was decorated by the grand though it dame to her unsolicited, she the fund for the American ladies' hospital cannot receive it without the consent of ship in South Africa. Congress. The State Department is hold-Paris in the closing days of the commune, of the two houses, which for a consider- Victoria Leiter. The only women encase of Prof. Newcomb.

Other American Women Decorated. flood, of the great Russian famine, of the West, nee Jennie Jerome, the Brooklyn Armenian massacres, of the Cuban trou- belle, who after the death of her first husband, Lord Randolph Churchill, married Russia. At the age of eighty-seven she She wears the magnificent jeweled decois today active in her new work as presi- rations of the Imperial Order of the dent of the National First Aid Associa- Crown of India and of the Royal Red following in the footsteps of her father, tion, which has its headquarters at Glen Cross, while in 1901 she was made a Lady of Grace of St. John of Jerusa-France recently decorated Dr. Anna lem. This Order of St. John of Jeru-States burean of education, with an or- is the oldest of the four British orders to der conferring the title "officier de l'in- which women are entitled. The Royal

Another American woman who wore ing her diploma in its safe pending the the Imperial Order of the Crown of Indecision of the foreign affairs committees dia was the late Lady Curzon, nee Mary she could have had also the cross of the able time have refused their consent to titled to this order are the royal prinin 1818, and to which the nobility only
Legion of Honor had she not refused to such acceptance, except in the notable cesses,, wives of Indian princes or other techniques of the however for women exclusions.

Some years ago he astonished everybody

cross benches directly in front of the

aged lord, who was holding forth on his

pet subject of personal liberty. In the

British nation is fast drifting toward the

high oriental dignitaries, the wife and woman relatives of the viceroys of In- sively and they must be but twenty-six dia, of the principal secretary of state for in number and not under twenty-six in International marriage as well as per- India, and of the governors of Bombay age. Russia also has a women's order, of New York, and a relative of Miss pologist and geologist, Prof. W J McGee, of honor. Indeed, this venerable philan- sonal attainment has been the means by and Madras. Other women may, however, which several other American women Indian crisis, such as the mutiny, for exobtain it by rendering aid in any great have lately received decorations from for- ample. The insignia is the royal cipher, tersburg, and who engineered our relief eign sovereigns. The most decorated of in diamonds, pearls and turquoises in a measures for victims of the Johnstown these is said to be Mrs. George Cornwallis circle of pearls and surrounded by a small jeweled crown attached to a bow of light blue watered ribbon with narrow white edges. The only other women's exclusively upon women. This, the Order decoration conferred by Britain is the of the Sun, was instituted by the former Order of Victoria and Albert, a medallion of these two royal personages set in diamonds or pearls, according to whether it is conferred "first" or "second" class. Orders for women exclusively exist in from which issue sixteen rays, a number of other foreign countries. One JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS. a number of other foreign countries. One of the oddest of these is the Order of the Slaves of Virtue, founded in 1662, by Eleanore, widow of Frederick III of Austria, to encourage in the women of her From the Cleveland Plain Dealer. court "the sentiments of wisdom and plety." Another peculiar Austria-Hungary

and Frederick III. On the death of the latter, his son Leopold I gave the relic to the widowed Empress Eleanore-the sovereign just mentioned-who treasured it in a casket of crystal and enamel until the burning of her castle at Vienna in 1668. The casket, found in the ruins, was partly melted, but the relic was unharmed and to commemorate this supposed miracle the empress founded for women this Order of the Community of Noble Ladies of the Starry Cross, which is restricted to princesses, countesses and other women of so-called high birth.

## Order of Old Maids.

The Prussion Order of Louisa, founded by Frederick William III in 1815 as a reward for women's services in war, is limited to 100 Prussian women. But more of an oddity is the Bavarian Order of Theresa, restricted to an even dozen of unmarried noblewomen who must be of

ancient Bavarian descent. On state occasions members of this order of noble old maids wear a special habit of bright blue and over their hearts a Maltese cross of gold. Another peculiar women's order of Bavaria is that of St. Anne, whose members must be fifteen years old or over and must be able to prove at least sixteen generations of noble ancestry. Originally these ten aristocrats, headed by a lady abbess, were confined in a convent and forbidden marriage, but these restrictions were abolished in 1802, when the members were increased from ten to eighteen and each was allowed a pension, while again in 1825 the membership was further in-

creased to sixty-seven. This proof of sixteen generations of noble descent is a prerequisite also to admission to Bavaria's third women's order, that of Elizabeth, which is limited Catholics. Saxony's Order of Lidonia, for women exclusively, is conferred as a reward for special service during war, as is Wurtemberg's Order of Olga, founded by Charles X of that kingdom to commemorate the patriotism of Olga, his queen during the war. The latter, however, is conferred upon both men and women.

Another order for both sexes is that of Our Lady of the Conception of Villa-Viciosa, founded by John VI of Portugal in 1818, and to which the nobility only Isabella is, however, for women excluthat of St. Catherine, founded by Peter the Great, in 1714, in honor of his con-

Spain's Order of Maria Louisa, founded by Charles IV, in 1792, is "for noble

ladies. Persia is another oriental power besides Turkey which has a decoration conferred Shab when he visited Europe in 1873. It is gotten up in characteristically oriental splendor, representing the sun's face with a glory within two circles of diamonds,

Two Ways of Putting It.

"Mr. Outlate carries his watch every where he goes and it always keeps good